



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy), Mark Parton MLA

Submission No 1 - Dr Jenny Thomson

Inquiry into Giralang Shops

Received – 15/03/21

Authorised – 18/03/21



15 March 2021

The Chairperson
The Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Madam/Sir

Re Enquiry into Giralang Shops (relating to Petition No 4-21)

I would like to thank the Legislative Assembly for conducting this enquiry into the state of the Giralang Shops site.

I have been a resident of Giralang for the last 41 years and have contributed to its community in many ways over those years. I have seen the site in question change from a flourishing community and shopping hub to a neglected eyesore.

I have been disappointed in the inability of government to provide the residents of this suburb with an appropriate shopping and community precinct.

The legal tussles around this site have been extraordinary. The needs and the desires of the community appear to have been ignored by the government with the result being a longstanding derelict and unsafe site adjacent to our local school and petrol station.

The residents and rate payers of Giralang, the long-term users of this site, have been ignored by governments for too long.

I would urge the government to immediately consider the terms of the lease of this site to enable the construction of premises that will allow for:

- an anchor tenant e.g. supermarket of a commercially viable size (minimum 1500 sq m in size)
- several other smaller commercial tenants e.g. cafe
- some residential development
- and some designated community space

Thank you for giving this matter your urgent consideration.

Your sincerely

Dr Jennifer Thomson AM
MBBS MBA FRACGP